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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS DIRECT LEGISLATION

Many amendments to state constitutions and acts of direct legislation were adopted by the voters in November elections. The following summary lists a number of the adoptions that may be of general interest to the states.

Alabama -- Alabama voters approved a constitutional amendment authorizing loans and the collection of debts by non-resident corporations not qualified to do business in the state, provided such business is transacted through a mortgage loan broker duly licensed under state law.

Alaska -- Alaska voters approved five bond propositions totaling $30.5 million. This included a ferry and road bond issue of $23 million; $1.5 million for airports; $2 million for the University of Alaska; $2.5 million for hospital construction and equipment; and $1.5 million for vocational education.

Arizona -- Taxes, the courts and university employees were the subjects of constitutional amendments approved in Arizona.

Voters approved one amendment relating to privilege taxes. It provides that 25 per cent of such taxes shall be paid to municipalities for municipal use in proportion to their population as shown by the last census. It also provides for a special census of municipal population in the years following a federal decennial census, to be used as the basis of apportionment of the taxes collected under this amendment.

In another amendment the Arizona Supreme Court was empowered to supervise all courts in the state. The amendment further provided for an Administrative Director for the Chief Justices; increased the salaries of Supreme and Superior Court Judges; established presiding judges for each county; permitted establishment of new courts and temporary judges; and increased Justice Court jurisdiction.

A third amendment provided for the employment of aliens as faculty members by a university or college.

California -- The California electorate adopted ten constitutional amendments and other items of direct legislation.

One measure approved a bond issue providing $1,750 million for development of water resources in the state.

Other proposals adopted permit totally disabled veterans, entitled to a $5,000 exemption on a home, to transfer it to a subsequently acquired home; permit the legislature to provide terms of office not to exceed eight years for members of any state agency created to administer the state college system; establish the manner in which nonprofit golf courses shall be assessed for purposes of taxation; allow the legislature to prescribe procedures governing claims against charter counties and cities or against officers, agents and employees of the cities and counties; clarify residence requirements for veterans' tax exemptions; and provide that District Courts of Appeal shall have appellate jurisdiction of Municipal and Justice Court cases.

One amendment provides that members of the Judicial Council besides judges shall include members of the State Bar and two legislators, permits appointment of one administrative director for the Council, creates a Commission on Judicial Qualifications and provides a procedure for removal of judges for misconduct or to compel retirement for disability.

Florida -- Florida voters approved two statewide constitutional amendments.

OFFICES OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

Headquarters Office
1313 East Sixtieth Street, Chicago 37, Illinois

Eastern Office
36 West Forty-fourth Street, New York 36, New York

Southern Office
830 West Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta 8, Georgia

Midwestern Office
1313 East Sixtieth Street, Chicago 37, Illinois

Western Office
582 Market Street, San Francisco 4, California

Washington Office
1025 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

One authorizes the legislature to provide not more than two additional judges for any District Court of Appeal and reduces the number of judges to not less than three for any district court. In effect, this amendment sets a maximum of five and a minimum of three judges for each such court and permits the legislature to increase or decrease the number of judges within this limitation.

The second amendment authorizes the legislature to provide for registration of electors who are members of the Armed Forces and their spouses living outside the state.

Georgia -- Georgia voters approved fourteen constitutional amendments of statewide interest.

Among them are amendments that provide for appropriation of motor fuel taxes for highway construction and maintenance; provide that the legislature appropriate to each state department and agency an amount necessary to make payments under any lease contract entered into between it and any state authority which has issued bonds and used such contract as security; and authorize the legislature to grant state funds to municipalities.

Other amendments establish an Industrial Development Commission to make loans available to industrial development agencies; provide for promotion of agricultural products; provide for the payment for taking or damaging private property for public road or street purposes; and authorize counties to use public funds for school lunch purposes.

Two amendments deal with medical loans and scholarships. One provides for repayment of medical loans and scholarships by service at a state hospital. The other grants scholarships to physicians and other personnel for specialized training in the field of mental health.

Additional amendments provide for establishment of area schools, including vocational trade schools, and authorize counties to purchase liability insurance. Courts-martial and non-judicial punishment were authorized for members of the State Militia when not in federal service.

Idaho -- Idaho voters approved a constitutional amendment providing for continuity of government in event of emergency.

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BREVARD CRIHFIELD, Executive Director

FRANK SMOTHERS, Director of Publications

JOSEPH J. MOYLAN, Editor, *State Government News*

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Illinois -- Two bond issues totaling $345 million were approved by Illinois voters. One measure provides $195 million for permanent improvements at educational institutions. The other authorizes $150 million for permanent improvements at mental health and other public welfare institutions.

Kansas -- The Kansas electorate approved two amendments. One provides for continuity of government in event of enemy attack; the other for "home rule" for all Kansas cities.

Louisiana -- Louisiana voters passed on 55 proposed constitutional amendments, adopting 29. Many of these were of a local nature. Among those of statewide application were the following

The Office of the Commissioner of Insurance was given constitutional status. Affecting elections, voter registration requirements were tightened, residence requirements for voting were reduced from one year to six months, and a prohibition against appointment of Registrars of Voters to other public office within twelve months after vacating office was repealed.

Membership of the House of Representatives was increased from 101 to 105, East Baton Rouge and Jefferson Parishes (counties) receiving two additional seats each. The law regarding ineligibility of a Governor to run for reelection was clarified.

Agricultural implements, machinery and equipment were exempted from taxation. One amendment changed provisions regarding retirement of judges; included was a lowering of the compulsory retirement age from 80 years to 75. Family Court judges were added to the list of judges eligible for retirement.

Municipalities and other subdivisions were authorized to pledge full faith and credit for payment of certain certificates of indebtedness issued for roads, sewer improvements and other public works.

Tax exemption was provided for goods, commodities and personal property moving through the state in interstate commerce or in storage while in transit to points outside Louisiana. Another measure provides for tax exemption for imported goods on public port property or common carrier docks; for imports in original form; and for certain raw materials to be exported outside the United States, while on public port property, common carrier docks or in public storage facilities.

Maine -- Maine voters approved a constitutional amendment providing for continuity of government in case of enemy attack.

Maryland -- Maryland voters adopted a referendum measure enacting the Compact of 1958, covering fisheries in the Potomac River. This matter for many years has been regulated for Maryland and Virginia by a compact

of 1785. The new compact, developed by a joint commission of the two states, was adopted by Maryland at its 1959 session and by Virginia at a special session in 1959. The effectiveness of the compact, however, was suspended in Maryland pending the statewide referendum.

Maryland voters also approved fifteen constitutional amendments. One permits tax anticipation borrowing by the state. Others create a municipal court for Baltimore City; authorize any county or any municipal corporation other than Baltimore City to carry out urban renewal projects; revise provisions concerning succession to the office of Governor; and increase the membership of the Court of Appeals from five to seven judges.

A further amendment provides that bills vetoed by the Governor shall not be returned to the legislature when a new General Assembly has been elected and sworn since passage of the vetoed bill. The effect is that vetoes will be final following the session of the General Assembly in an election year. At other times the vetoed bills will continue to be returned to the legislature for a vote on sustaining or overriding the veto.

Two amendments deal with assessment. One provides for the separate assessment, classification and subclassification of land, improvements on land and personal property. It also provides that all taxes be uniform within each class or subclass. The other provides that land actively devoted to farm or agricultural use shall be assessed on the basis of such use and not as if subdivided.

Still another amendment provides that counties may not contract any debt or obligation, or give or lend their credit, unless authorized by the legislature; the purpose is to permit counties which so desire to make grants of public funds to agencies generally described as industrial development corporations.

Michigan -- The Michigan electorate approved three changes in the state constitution. The present method of financing school building construction through use of bonds backed by state credit was liberalized. The legislature was authorized to raise the sales tax from 3 to 4 per cent and procedures were changed for calling a constitutional convention, electing delegates to a convention, and counting votes at a convention.

Minnesota -- Minnesota voters approved two constitutional amendments. One provides for the succession to the office of Governor and continuity of government in emergencies. The second, relating to elections, provides for removal of obsolete provisions in the constitution pertaining to Indians, and authorizes the legislature to provide for a place of voting for otherwise qualified voters who have changed residence within thirty days preceding an election.

Missouri -- Missouri's voters approved four constitutional amendments.

One allows the legislature to set legislative compensation and provides travel pay of 10 cents a mile for travel to and returning from the state capital twice a month when the legislature is in session. The amendment also provides that the regular biennial session of the legislature shall adjourn July 15 instead of May 31, with the period from June 30 to July 15 reserved for completion of technical and clerical details. All bills remaining on the calendar on June 30 are to be tabled and expense allowances to members will crease after June 30.

Other amendments extend for twelve years a special park fund and authorize expenditure from the fund on historical sites as well as state parks; allow municipalities to issue bonds for construction or improvement of industrial plants; and provide for continuity of government in event of disaster caused by enemy attack.

Nebraska -- Nebraska voters approved eight constitutional amendments.

It was provided that members of the legislature shall receive a salary not to exceed $200 per month. The legislature was authorized to provide for continuity of state and local government operations in emergency. Other amendments authorize local governments to acquire, develop and lease property to industrial enterprises and to issue revenue bonds for this purpose; provide for the election of more than one county judge for a county and for the forming of county judicial districts; and authorize the legislature to prescribe the manner of contesting elections of state executive officers.

One amendment allows Nebraska corporations in their articles of incorporation to provide that preferred stock holders shall have no right to vote; up to now corporations have had the right to provide that preferred stock holders can vote. Other amendments provide that livestock shall constitute a separate and distinct class of property for purposes of taxation and for reciprocal and proportionate taxation of livestock located in the state for only a part of the year; and provide for the establishment of bonded and licensed warehouses for merchandise in transit and intended for districts outside the state -- such merchandise to be exempt from ad valorum taxation.

Nevada -- Nevada voters approved two constitutional amendments. One relates to tax exemption for personal property in transit. The second returns Nevada to biennial regular sessions of the legislature. The electorate in 1958 had provided for annual sessions.

New Hampshire -- New Hampshire voters approved four amendments -- relating to travel pay, continuity of government, legislative apportionment, and jury trials in civil cases.

The travel pay amendment provides that legislators will receive mileage payments for each day of actual attendance at a regular session up to a total of ninety session days or up to July 1, whichever occurs first. In addition, it provides that if the legislature calls itself into special session, the legislators will receive no salary payment or mileage payment unless two-thirds of the members of each house vote in favor of having the special session.

The legislature was authorized to provide for continuity of state and local government in case of enemy attack. It was empowered to make census adjustments on account of nonresidents temporarily residing in the state when making any apportionment to determine legislative representation. The minimum amount entitling parties to trial by jury in civil cases was raised from $100 to $500.

New Jersey -- The New Jersey electorate approved a constitutional amendment granting exemption from taxation on real property to persons 65 or more years old, provided such exemption shall not exceed $800 of the property's assessed valuation. The exemption applies only to owners having an income not over $5,000 a year.

New Mexico -- In New Mexico the voters approved six constitutional amendments, also an $8 million bond issue for construction of buildings at state educational institutions.

Three amendments provide for staggered terms for State Senators; allow the legislature to set by statute a time limit on bill introduction; and provide for continuity of government by allowing the legislature to name persons to fill vacancies temporarily in event of disaster caused by enemy attack.

A fourth amendment adds certain welfare institutions to the list of official institutions named in the constitution. Another changes the names of certain state educational institutions to conform with common usage.

The legislature was authorized to permit counties to divide into County Commission Districts and to require that each commissioner of a district reside in the district in which he is elected.

New York -- New York voters approved a proposition authorizing $75 million to acquire predominantly open lands for conservation and outdoor recreation, particularly in and near rapidly growing urban and suburban areas, and to acquire additional state park lands. The measure further authorizes grants to local governments to acquire similar lands for municipal parks and to match federal funds which may be made available by Congress for such purposes.

Rhode Island -- Rhode Island voters approved bond issues totaling $10,250,000.

One, a $1,750,000 bond issue, provides the state's 10 per cent share of a $16,280,000 barrier to protect the downtown Providence area from flooding in event of future hurricanes. Another provides $2.5 million for construction of new cottages and other facilities at a training school for boys and a training school for girls.

A $6 million bond issue was approved to finance construction for a new library and science center at the University of Rhode Island, and land acquisition and construction of a library, science laboratory and classrooms at Rhode Island College.

South Carolina -- South Carolina approved two constitutional amendments of statewide application. One provides for continuity of government in event of emergency resulting from enemy attack. The second deletes a provision in the constitution limiting the civil jurisdiction of Magistrates to cases in which the value of property in controversy, or the amount claimed does not exceed $100. In addition it extends the exclusive jurisdiction of Magistrates in criminal cases from cases involving a fine of $100 or imprisonment of thirty days to cases involving a fine of $200 or imprisonment of thirty days.

South Dakota -- Constitutional amendments relating to elections, pardons and paroles, and continuity of government were approved by South Dakota voters.

One measure allows elected county administrative officers to succeed themselves. Another restricts the Governor's power to pardon, parole and remit fines to cases in which the Board of Pardons and Paroles has made written recommendation regarding such action. This amendment also requires the recording of all such actions to the legislature. It reconstitutes the membership of the Board of Pardons and Paroles from the present membership of the presiding Judge of the Supreme Court, the Secretary of State and the Attorney General to an assistant Attorney General appointed by the Attorney General and two persons -- one appointed by the Governor and the other by the Supreme Court.

The legislature was authorized to appoint officials and adopt necessary measures to continue effective government in emergency resulting from enemy attack.

Texas -- Texas voters approved a constitutional amendment providing a salary for legislators of $4,800 a year and a per diem allowance of $12 per day for the first 120 days of each session of the legislature. The amendment further provides that the length of the regular session be limited to 140 days.

The Veterans' Land Board was authorized to issue bonds at an interest rate not to exceed 3 1/2 per cent.

In a third measure the legislature was authorized to classify loans and lenders, license and regulate lenders, define interest

and fix maximum rates of interest. In the absence of any legislation fixing maximum rates, the maximum rate of interest was set at 10 per cent per year.

Virginia -- Virginia voters approved a constitutional amendment permitting members of the Armed Forces in peacetime as well as wartime to forego payment of a poll tax as a prerequisite to voting.

Washington -- Direct legislation by the Washington electorate included three initiative measures.

One measure establishes a state civil service system. It will cover all state employees except persons employed in the judicial branch, elected officials, and certain others. A second initiative proposal authorizes joint tenancies in property with rights of survivorship. The third provides for statewide daylight saving time.

West Virginia -- West Virginia voters approved an amendment for continuity of government in event of enemy attack.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION DEFEATED

Iowa voters defeated a proposal to hold a constitutional convention to amend the state constitution. The main issue involved was reapportionment of the legislature. Supporters of a convention had proposed it as a way to accomplish reapportionment. Opponents supported reapportionment, but by legislative action.

The state constitution requires that every ten years the question of whether a constitutional convention shall be held must be placed on the ballot. There are two ways to amend the constitution in Iowa. One is by constitutional convention, the other by passage of a proposed amendment by two successive sessions of the legislature and a majority vote on the amendment by the electorate.

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Massachusetts legislature which convened on January 6, adjourned November 24, the longest session in the state's history. A subsequent special session was held from December 6 to 9.

A record high budget of $454,965,698 was adopted. Other appropriations for deficiencies, supplemental and special purposes and authorizations for bond issues brought the total state spending authorized at the session to some $688 million.

State senatorial districts and districts from which members of the Governor's Council are chosen were reapportioned. The annual salary of legislators was increased from $5,200 to $6,700, and legislators received an additional $500 expense allowance for the 1960 session. A general pay increase was provided for state employees.

A Government Center Commission to construct several state buildings was created.

The legislature authorized the nine state teachers' colleges to broaden their programs, and the word "teachers" was deleted from their names. Five additional regional community colleges were authorized. Legislation provided for consolidation of two institutions to form a new technological institute in Southeastern Massachusetts. Authority was granted to two state agencies to establish statewide standards for school construction. Other measures provide that a teacher cannot be refused employment because of blindess and provide for payment by the state of half the cost of special classes for the hard of hearing and children suffering from speech defects. State aid for libraries was approved, as was a new system of regional libraries.

A special $86 million highway program was approved. It includes authorization for the state to issue up to $50 million in short term bonds to help finance the work. In highway safety action the legislature required special colored licenses for drivers under 21 and repealed the point system for motor vehicle violations. Increased penalties were set for altering or forging drivers' licenses or registrations. A motor boat registration act was voted, applying to all boats with motors of over 10 horsepower.

Legislation was adopted to implement the federal-aid medical care for the aged program. The legislature increased some special allowances for persons receiving old age assistance and aid to the disabled. It approved a $25 million bond issue to increase the state's guarantee in support of low cost housing for the elderly. An amendment to the reciprocal enforcement of support act provides that statements made in a petition shall be considered prima facie evidence of the duty to support and of the failure of the respondent to do so.

In a new definition in juvenile law, "delinquent child" is defined as a person between the ages of 7 and 17 who violates any local or state law. Cases involving all such persons will be heard initially in the district courts. A public defender system to provide counsel for indigent defendants was established. Other new laws require that any person who is arrested be permitted to telephone his attorney, his family or a friend within one hour of being booked in order to arrange bail, and provide that time spent in jail awaiting trial and sentencing must be deducted from any sentence imposed. The State Parole Board was reorganized and its jurisdiction broadened. Travel allowances for jurors were raised from 6 to 8 cents a mile.

The legislature extended workmen's compensation coverage to include farm laborers. Cities and towns were given permission to enter into collective bargaining agreements with employees except police. Another act requires registration of strike breakers brought into the state.

The Uniform Arbitration Act for Commercial Disputes was adopted. The legislature increased penalties for false weights and measures and required the price per pound and total price to be marked on prepackaged meat, fish, poultry and other products. A humane slaughter act was adopted.

The legislature permitted establishment of historic districts in communities throughout the state. Four such districts in Concord were created by special act. Property in all such districts is subject to special controls exercised by historic district commissions.

An appropriation of $500,000 was made to accelerate the forest management program on state lands, and another appropriation of $1 million was provided for acquisition of forest and park lands.

The State Health Department was authorized to issue rules for control of radiation sources. A study of means of promoting construction of radioactive fall-out shelters was approved, as was a study of proposed continuity of government legislation. The proposed amendment to the U. S. Constitution to permit residents of the District of Columbia to vote in presidential elections was ratified.

TAX, FISCAL AFFAIRS

Nevada Tax Study -- The Nevada bi-partisan State Legislative Commission has made public a 695-page analysis of the state's revenue structure and financial administration, along with recommendations for realignment in both areas. Authorized by the 1959 legislature and financed by a $70,000 appropriation, the report is the result of eighteen months of study by a team of experts under the direction of Dr. Reuben Zubrow of the University of Colorado.

Principal among the report's recommendations are proposals for a realignment of existing taxes to improve the financial conditions of cities and counties in the state. Under the survey's suggestions, the state in 1962 would be receiving about $200,000 less than with present taxes, while the counties would be taking in an extra $500,000 and the cities an additional $1.7 million.

Concerning state financial administration, the report recommends changes in both structure and practices at the state level and tighter state control over city and county budgeting, accounting, financial reporting and auditing, to integrate Nevada's taxing process on all levels.

A highlight of the report is a seventy-eight page chapter presenting for the first time a complete financial picture of the state's gambling industry and its impact on the state economy.

Financing Public Schools -- Governor John Burroughs of New Mexico has appointed an Education Study Commission to study public school finances. The action follows a meeting between educators and members of the Governor's staff to determine what could be done about declining revenues for school support. School tax collections in the July-September quarter, 1960, declined more than $900,000 from the same period in 1959, and more than $50,000 a month in school taxes is being paid under protest by companies holding contracts with the federal government. In the latter connection, a series of law suits has been filed against the state claiming the school tax is discriminatory because it provides exemptions for business dealings with local and state governments but not with the federal government.

The commission is authorized to determine the status of the public school financing problem and to make recommendations for its solution to the regular session of the legislature that will meet in January.

THE COURTS

Court Backlog Reduced -- The American Judicature Society reports that Oregon's Supreme Court has reduced a backlog of cases through use of pro tem judges chosen from the ranks of the Circuit Court. The waiting period dropped from twenty-one months to four. In addition to reducing congestion, the use of Circuit Judges has provided a reservoir of judges experienced in appellate work and has resulted in closer understanding between the trial and appellate benches.

Revise Code of Civil Procedure -- The Kansas Judicial Council is preparing a revision of the Code of Civil Procedure under an initial legislative grant of $15,000. The council has employed an attorney to carry the major responsibility of research, drafting and reporting. With the assistance of a six-member advisory committee, the council will submit recommendations to the Supreme Court, bar and legislature when its study is completed.

YOUTH PROGRAM

A special advisory committee on youth to Governor George D. Clyde of Utah has recommended establishment of a permanent state agency, with a full-time executive staff, to guide the planning and development of youth programs in the state. Reconstituted from the membership of the Utah delegation to the 1960 White House Conference on Children and Youth, the advisory group was appointed by the Governor to carry forward proposals developed at the Conference and in preparation for it at sessions within the state. Details of the proposed agency were not decided on, but the committee agreed that Utah should in general follow the Colorado pattern. In that state a Governor's Advisory Council on Children and Youth has been organized. It operates on an annual budget of $15,000.

ATOMIC ENERGY CONFERENCE

A Conference on the Role of the States in Programming for Atomic Energy Development and Regulation was held in Chicago December 7-8. More than 100 officials from thirty-one states, three federal agencies, several local governments and a number of private organizations attended. The conference was sponsored by the Council of State Governments.

Among the several subjects considered were problems and opportunities for states in development and regulation, experiences and evaluation of state methods for coordination and administration, and intergovernmental problems.

The conferees concluded that lack of knowledge, funds and competent personnel impeded development and regulation. Public education, appropriation of funds and training of personnel were suggested to help overcome current problems. The consensus was that states have the capability to regulate isotope users better than the Atomic Energy Commission; that any program should provide for regulation of X-rays, radium and other sources of ionizing radiation presently subject to state jurisdiction; and that there are a number of administrative arrangements presently in use, or which may be developed, to achieve a coordinated regulatory program.

Participants recognized that there were difficult but not insoluble problems of intergovernmental relations with respect to atomic energy regulation. Uniformity of regulations among jurisdictions, it was suggested, will help to control the number and scope of such problems. Interstate compacts, advisory committees, joint meetings, joint training of personnel, and interstate reciprocity in recognition of licenses were some of the other means suggested to improve intergovernmental relations in this area.

BOATING OFFICIALS MEET

The second Meeting of State Officials Responsible for Administration and Enforcement of State Boating Laws was held in Chicago November 28-29. More than 125 representatives of thirty-two states, the United States Coast Guard, seven other federal agencies and several private groups attended. The meeting was called by the Advisory Panel of State Officials to the Merchant Marine Council, U. S. Coast Guard, in cooperation with the Council of State Governments.

Coast Guard officers discussed their responsibilities under the Federal Boating Act of 1958 with respect to statistics administration, law enforcement, education and training, and boating safety publicity. Other presentations covered the activities of the North Central States Boating Law Administrators Association, including a report of its Committee on Uniform Markers, vessel documentation, and small boat lighting. A major portion of the meeting was given over to summaries of state problems and suggestions for dealing with them.

The conferees appeared to be in complete agreement that the federal-state boat numbering and safety program was working very well. Many problems remain to be solved, but the program has achieved remarkable success in its initial year. One problem to be dealt with concerns the use of markers to indicate restrictions in use of waters or on operations of boats in certain water areas. The conferees authorized the appointment of a committee of state officials to meet with representatives of the Coast Guard and other appropriate federal agencies and interested private groups to devise a system of uniform markers for all waters of the United States.

PERSONNEL

Unified Personnel System -- Utah is moving into the last stages of reformulating its personnel system to establish a unified pattern for classification and compensation of state employees, excluding state college and university personnel. Nearing completion is the delineation of some 2,000 job descriptions covering about 5,800 state employees.

The job descriptions assess the nature of each state position and the responsibilities and training it entails. A salary scale covering the whole range of state employment is being developed by State Personnel Director Elmer P. Hunsaker. A special committee appointed by him, composed of representatives from various state departments and commissions, is expected to complete the reformulation program early in 1961 by rating each job description within the salary scale.

Civil Service Systems -- Washington has become the twenty-eighth state to have a statewide civil service law. It is the third state to adopt civil service in 1960; the others were Alaska and Kentucky.

LEGISLATIVE ORIENTATION

Georgia's legislators, new and old, held their second biennial orientation "institute" in the Center for Continuing Education of the University of Georgia in Athens on December 11-13.

Co-sponsors of the conference included the presiding officers and leaders of both legislative houses, their chief clerks and the Institute of Law and Government of the University's School of Law. About 200 of the state's 259 members of the 1961 session participated, along with numerous representatives of legislative service and administrative agencies.

An unusual feature of the institute were "mock" sessions held separately for House and Senate members. At these sessions errors of procedure were illustrated by specific reference to the rules of the house involved. The agenda of the program concen-

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trated on technical aspects of the legislative process -- parliamentary procedure, legislative organization and operation and aids for legislators.

Governor S. Ernest Vandiver spoke to the legislators at a concluding luncheon. He suggested that ways be found to provide greater continuity in the fifty-four member Senate, virtually all of whom change office every two years because of a "rotational agreement" arrangement among the multi-county senatorial districts. The Governor also observed that the 1961 session will be the first in four years to consider an appropriation act, as the result of a constitutional amendment adopted in November which eliminated some of the restrictive earmarking effects of a prior highway-user revenue amendment.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATES

The Fifteenth Biennial General Assembly of the States was held by the Council of State Governments in Chicago on December 1 and 2. Approximately 300 legislators, officials and guests attended from forty-four states and the District of Columbia.

Topics at plenary and concurrent sessions included education, atomic energy, interstate compacts, problems of children and youth, highway safety, motor vehicle regulation, metropolitan transportation problems, suggested state legislation, intergovernmental tax problems and problems of the aging.

Governor William G. Stratton of Illinois delivered a welcoming address at the opening session and then turned over the program to Governor Stephen L. R. McNichols of Colorado, President of the Council of State Governments, who presided for the rest of the morning session. At a State Dinner that evening Governor McNichols described trips taken by members of the Governors' Conference to Russia and South America during the past two years. Leo A. Hoegh, Director of the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization and former Governor of Iowa, addressed a luncheon session on the civil defense responsibilities of the states and described the continuity of government program developed jointly by the Committee on Suggested State Legislation and OCDM.

Two resolutions of the Assembly dealt with interstate compacts. A National Conference on Interstate Compacts and Interstate Agencies, to be sponsored by the Council of State Governments on February 2-3, 1961, was the subject of one resolution. Another expressed opposition to any effort on the part of the federal government to exercise control over the detailed operations and internal administration of interstate compact agencies.

Other resolutions urged establishment of a committee of the Council to recommend means for improvement of the Committees and Commissions on Interstate Cooperation in order that they may make a more valuable contribution to the solution of intergovernmental problems; requested the states to examine their statutes to determine if they are adequate to protect victims of disease from deceitfully advertised products; and called on the states to adopt resolutions marking the centennial of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. The delegates also recommended that Congress delay enactment of any apportionment of interstate business income standards for the purpose of state taxation until the states have an opportunity to take steps toward achieving uniform standards on their own initiative.

An extensive summary of the General Assembly will appear in the winter quarterly issue of State Government.

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